

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 04401 01 OF 02 010847Z

12

ACTION SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1459

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SINGAPORE 4401

LIMDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, SN

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134

1. WHILE SINGAPORE IS NOT A GROWING OR MANUFACTURING AREA FOR NARCOTICS PRODUCTS, IT HAS FOR DECADES BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DISTRIBUTION, TRANSSHIPMENT AND FINANCIAL CENTER FOR TRAFFICKERS DEALING IN OPIUM PRODUCTS FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND MARIJUANA ORIGINATING IN INDONESIA. IN THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE (GOS) BECAME CONCERNED OVER THE GROWING USE OF MARIJUANA AND METHAQUALONE BY SINGAPOREANS AND MORE RECENTLY, SINCE APRIL 1973, OVER THE USE OF NO. 3 HEROIN WHICH IS NOW READILY AVAILABLE.

2. THEREFORE, FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE GOS HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER DRUG ABUSE AND IT CERTAINLY CANNOT BE CATEGORIZED AS ONE OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH REGARD IT AS BEING PRIMARILY AS AMERICAN PROBLEM. IN 1971 THE GOS ESTABLISHED A CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU (CNB) AND PASSED STRICT LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFICKERS. ALL AGENCIES IN THE GOS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATTING NARCOTICS USE AND TRAFFICKING, AND THE GOS HAS EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE ENERGY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 04401 01 OF 02 010847Z

AND MEDIA EFFORT IN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT. AT

APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME AS THE CNB WAS ESTABLISHED A DEA (THEN BNDD) OFFICE WAS OPENED IN SINGAPORE. DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN CNB AND DEA AND SUCCESSFUL JOINT OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED.

3. IN ITS INITIAL YEARS OF OPERATION THE CNB HAS BEEN UNDER-STAFFED AND HAS HAD TO DEPEND ON PERSONNEL BORROWED FROM POLICE AND CUSTOMS. RECENTLY THE GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE RE-RECRUITMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL 40 OFFICERS FOR THE CNB. THIS RECRUITMENT IS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE IS A DIRECT INTAKE FROM THE CIVILIAN SECTOR. SINCE THE CNB IS CHARGED WITH PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND TREATMENT AS WELL AS ENFORCEMENT, STAFF AND BUDGET ARE STILL INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICE IN ALL THESE AREAS.

4. THE MISSION'S PROGRAM TO COMBAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE HAS CONCENTRATED ON UPGRADING THE EXPERTISE OF THE CNB AND THE SINGAPORE CUSTOMS DEPT. THE MISSION HAS ALSO ENCOURAGED THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE RELEVANT TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. LAST JANUARY I ARRANGED TO HAVE THE FORMER SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY ON NARCOTICS AFFAIRS, MR. HANDLEY, MEET WITH THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND URGE INTENSIFIED EFFORT ON ALL FRONTS. DEA OFFICERS HAVE ALSO QUIETLY ENCOURAGED THE CNB TO SEEK MORE RESOURCES FOR THEIR OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT RECRUITMENT EFFORT CITED ABOVE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT THESE REPRESENTATIONS, WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT GOS INTEREST AND EFFORT IN COMBATING DRUG ABUSE IS INCREASING.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE DAY-TO-DAY ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE PROVIDED BY OUR DEA OFFICE, U.S. ASSISTANCE TO SINGAPORE IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN CONFINED LARGELY TO TRAINING WHICH INVOLVES SENDING APPROXIMATELY EIGHT CNB OFFICIALS EACH YEAR TO THE U.S. FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF ENFORCEMENT TRAINING, AND THE HOLDING OF IN-COUNTRY TRAINING COURSES. THIS TRAINING HAS BEEN PUT TO GOOD USE. THE CNB OFFICIALS WHO RECEIVED TRAINING IN FY-74 WERE PROMOTED ON THEIR RETURN AND HAVE BEEN USED TO TRAIN OTHER CNB OFFICIALS IN IN-HOUSE TRAINING PROGRAMS. FURTHERMORE, DEA HAS NOTED THAT THE TRAINING RECEIVED HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BOTH IN INDEPENDENT AS WELL AS JOINT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 04401 01 OF 02 010847Z

INVESTIGATIONS. THIS HAS LED TO INCREASED SEIZURES AND THE ARREST OF MAJOR TRAFFICKERS.

6. DURING FY-74 SIX MAJOR TRAFFICKERS WERE ARRESTED AND THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS BEING TRANSSHIPPED THROUGH SINGAPORE BY SINGAPORE-BASED TRAFFICKERS WAS INTERRUPTED AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. HOWEVER, NARCOTICS TRANSITING SINGAPORE WHICH ARE NOT OFFLOADED AND RELOADED FOR SHIPMENT ELSEWHERE HAVE PROBABLY

NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS. AS RESULT OF INFORMATION DERIVED FROM INTERROGATING ONE MAJOR TRAFFICKER, THE CNB HAS DISCOVERED THAT ELEMENTS OF THE POLICE, CUSTOMS AND THE CNB HAVE ENGAGED IN CORRUPTION. VIGOROUS ACTION HAS BEEN TAKE TO WEED OUT THESE PERSONNEL AND PROSECUTION IS PENDING.

7. THE GOS HAS ALSO DEMONSTRATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITH NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS IN COMBATTING TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE EMBASSY, THE DEA OFFICE AND OCCASIONAL HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE GOS TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS AND DEVOTE GREATER RESOURCES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF POLITICAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04401 02 OF 02 010912Z

11

ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 SSO-00 SNM-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

INR-05 CIAE-00 RSC-01 MED-01 DODE-00 /037 W

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R 010730Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1460

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SINGAPORE 4401

LIMDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

SENSITIVITIES THIS MUST BE DONE WITH DISCRETION.

8. THE GOS TURNED DOWN A U.S. PROPOSAL TO SUPPLY TWO-WAY RADIOS TO THE CNB IN FY-74 BECAUSE OF ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO SIGN ANY DOCUMENT OR EXCHANGE OF NOTES GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOS IS AN AID RECIPIENT. IN VIEW OF ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WE DO NOT BELIEVE NEW PROGRAMS INVOLVING U.S. ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED UNLESS THE GOS TAKES THE INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING AID AND INDICATES WILLINGNESS TO SIGN MINIMAL DOCUMENTATION.

9. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY (APPROXIMATELY 8,000) STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE EMBASSY HAS DEVELOPED A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AMONG RESIDENT AMERICAN TEENAGERS. IN RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST THE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION (SAODAP) HAS PROVIDED A U.S. \$35,000 GRANT TO THE STATE DEPT TO SUPPORT THE SINGAPORE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL'S (SACAC) TWO-YEAR PROGRAM DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT THIS PURPOSE. THIS PROGRAM IS NOW FULLY LAUNCHED, BUT CONTINUING FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE REQUIRED.

10. ADDITIONALLY, THE US NAVY, CONCERNED OVER DRUG ABUSE BY PERSONNEL FROM VISITING SHIPS, HAS CONDUCTED A DRIVE DURING THE PAST YEAR TO DISCOURAGE DRUG SALES TO U.S. SAILORS. THE CNB
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 04401 02 OF 02 010912Z

COOPERATED FULLY IN THIS EFFORT, WELCOMED US NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE AGENTS, AND CONDUCTED SEVERAL JOINT OPERATIONS CONCURRENT WITH SHIP VISITS. WHILE THESE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN DISCOURAGING SALE TO USN PERSONNEL, THEY HAVE NOT RESULTED IN APPREHENSION OF MAJOR TRAFFICKERS. THE OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUING IN CONJUNCTION WITH USN SHIP VISITS.

11. SUGGESTIONS.

A. SINCE THE DRUG SITUATION IN ANY COUNTRY CAN CHANGE QUICKLY, RECOMMEND THAT ALL WASHINGTON AGENCIES BE PREPARED TO REACT FLEXIBLY AND IMAGINATIVELY TO NEW REQUIREMENTS. IN SINGAPORE OUR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CNB OFFICIALS HAS BEEN SET BACK BECAUSE WASHINGTON AGENCIES DISAPPROVED FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL AIR FARE OF CNB OFFICERS BEING SENT TO THE U.S. FOR TRAINING. THIS HAS CAUSED THE CNB TO TURN DOW THE FIRST THREE GRANTS OFFERED FOR FY-75. IN OUR PROGRAM SUBMISSION THIS YEAR (A-158 OF AUG. 16, 1974) WE REQUESTED AN EXCEPTION BE MADE AND THAT FUNDS BE ALLOCATED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

B. WE ARE NOW RECEIVING GROWING EVIDENCE THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING TO USE NO. 3 HEROIN WHICH HAS RECENTLY APPEARED ON THE SCENE. THEREFORE IT IS CLEAR THAT CONTINUATION OF SACAC PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL IF COUNSELING SERVICES AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS FOR TEENAGERS ARE TO BE MAINTAINED. ALTHOUGH SAODAP PROVIDED A ONE-TIME GRANT, WE UNDERSTAND FROM RECENT VISIT OF DR. DU PONT THAT SAODAP WILL SHORTLY TERMINATE AND THE THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DRUG ABUSE PROBABLY DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY RAISED MORE THAN US\$85,000 FOR THIS PROGRAM AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT. HOWEVER, TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO CON-

TINUE TO MOBILIZE COMMUNITY SUPPORT. THEREFORE WE THINK IT
HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT THE DEPT ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY
AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDS TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR OVERSEAS
AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS.

C. DESPITE OUR STRONG ADVOCACY OF VIGOROUS ACTION AGAINST
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, SINGAPOREAN OFFICIALS HAVE OCCASIONALLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 04401 02 OF 02 010912Z

QUESTIONED SINCERITY OF OUR PURPOSE BECAUSE OF OCCASIONAL LIGHT
SENTENCES IMPOSED ON TRAFFICKERS BY FEDERAL COURTS IN THE U.S.
HOWEVER, THEY ARE EVEN MORE CONCERNED OVER ACTION BY U.S. COURTS
IN DEPORTING FOREIGN NATIONALS COVICTED OF VIOLATING U.S. DRUG
LAWS AFTER SERVING LITTLE OR NO TIME IN PRISON. IF SINGAPOREAN
NATIONALS CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES IN THE U.S. ARE DEPORTED
TO SINGAPORE, ADVERSE REACTION HERE COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE
EXISTING COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CNB AND DEA.
ADDITIONAL ADVERSE SPINOFF IS THAT SUCH PERSONS SERVE AS
WALKING ADVERTISEMENTS FOR OTHERS WHO ARE TEMPTED BY POTENTIAL
FINANCIAL GAIN TO TRANSPORT NARCOTICS TO THE U.S.
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